

On 17 November 2006, the WSBCC made decisions on the 2006 Washington State codes including the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC). The WSBCC adopted 38 of the 39 revisions that were published for public review for the WSEC. Key changes include:

- U-0.35 windows for single-family (previously was U-0.40).
- Limit of 150% for residential equipment sizing (previously 200%) and prescriptive heating equipment sizing option eliminated.
- Exterior lighting for residential buildings must be either high-efficacy (i.e. no incandescents) OR controlled by a motion sensor.
- Wall U-factors for residential buildings in Tables 5-1 and 6-1 revised to be U-0.057 (previously U-0.058, U-0.060, and U-0.062) for consistency with Chapter 10 and to eliminate the different wall U-factors for space heating system type.
- Adoption of Seattle nonresidential requirements for alterations to mechanical systems, commissioning, default U-factor tables for metal stud walls, semiheated space insulation, setback and shutoff controls, hydronic systems, variable flow systems, cooling towers.
- Incorporation of ASHRAE Standard 90.1 and national Energy Policy Act (EPAct) requirements for increased efficiencies for mechanical equipment, exit lights, and transformers.
- Significant restructuring of the interior lighting power allowance table and complete revision of the exterior lighting power allowance provisions.

The one potential change not adopted would have required that residential projects that used the trade-off option for compliance and had small window areas would need to use the same window area in the baseline, rather than 15% of the floor area. (This is a common problem with low-rise multi-family building projects where the baseline that they use for trade-offs for Energy Code compliance and for Seattle City Light incentive payments is not reasonable and gives credit where no improvements have been made.)

In other actions interacting with the Energy Code, the WSBCC did not adopt the portion of 2006 IRC (Section R806.4) that would allow unvented attic spaces.

The 2006 Washington State codes are effective 1 July 2007. The 2006 WSEC changes are filed in Washington State Register WSR 07-01-089. The published version of the 2006 WSEC incorporating the changes is expected to be available in May 2007.